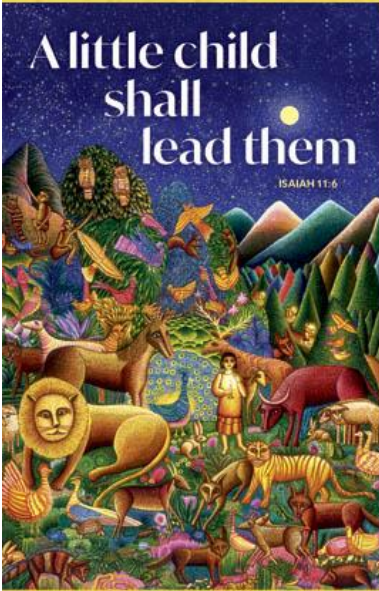


ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
127 YORK STREET  
HANOVER, PA



## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**December 7, 2025**

Rev. Jason Northridge, Pastor  
[srpastor@stpaulsyorkst.org](mailto:srpastor@stpaulsyorkst.org)  
717-467-1644

Rev. Jack R. Hoffman, Pastor Emeritus  
Steven Ruppright, Director of Music Ministries  
Lori Rebling, Director of Hand Bells  
Gretchen Walter, Director of Children's Music  
Ministers: The Members of St. Paul's  
Missionaries: Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson and family  
Church Office: 717-637-5941  
Email: [stpaulsyorkst@comcast.net](mailto:stpaulsyorkst@comcast.net)  
Website: [www.stpaulsyorkst.org](http://www.stpaulsyorkst.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/stpaulsyorkst](http://www.facebook.com/stpaulsyorkst)

## WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH!

If you are seeking a faith community, exploring faith, desire to be a part of our ministries, or have questions; please feel free to speak with the pastor.

### Our Purpose:

*We are called through Christ to praise God and love generously.*

### Guiding Principles:

As instruments of God's love, when you see us at our best you will see us:

- Generously** stewarding God's gifts of resources, time, and talents
- Serving** as God's hands & feet in ministries & missions of outreach to all
- Providing** for the care of God's people, both physically and spiritually
- Growing in Faith** through worship, study, and discernment
- Praising** God through music, word, and service
- Welcoming** all people into fellowship with God

### Important Worship Notes

*All liturgies are printed within this bulletin.*

***Children's activity bags and children's bulletins are located on the podium in the hallway on the pulpit side of the sanctuary. Children's activity bags are also located on the coat rack behind the door of the choir loft side of the sanctuary.***

**P:** Pastor

**C:** Congregation

**L:** Lay Reader

**A:** Assisting Minister

***If you are communing, please be sure to fill out a communion record card, for our church records, and place it in the offering plate. Thank you.***

**+ 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent +  
December 7, 2025**

## **INTRODUCTION**

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near..

## **THE GATHERING**

### **WELCOME**

### **LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**

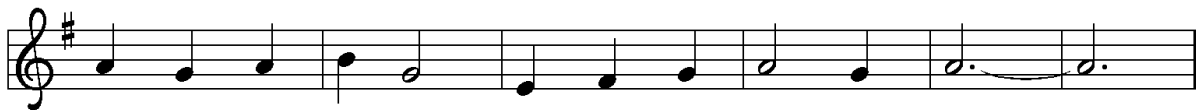
- P** Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.  
You call all nations to walk in your light and to seek your ways of justice and peace, for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near.  
Bless us as we light the first candle of this wreath.  
Rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes and welcome him into our hearts and homes, for he is our light and our salvation.  
Blessed be God forever.
- C** **Amen.**



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for  
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for  
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for  
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



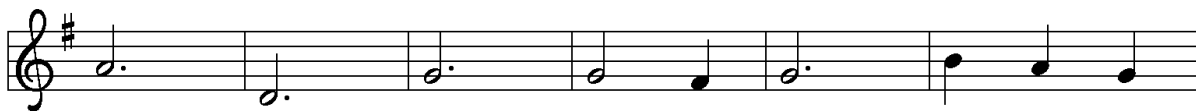
truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



*Refrain*  
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

C **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Long-expected God,

**we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness.

† You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

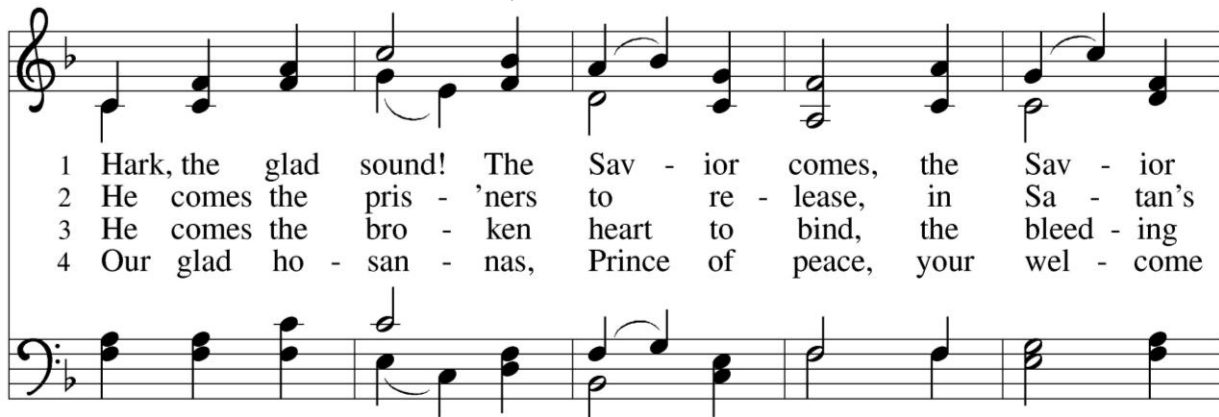
**Amen.**



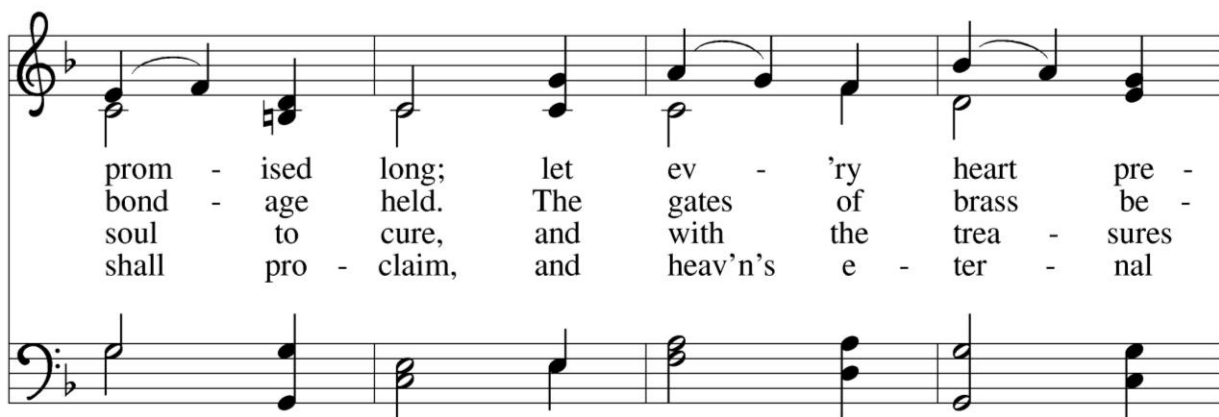
**\*OPENING HYMN**

*"Hark, the Glad Sound!"*

ELW 239



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior  
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's  
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -  
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures  
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.  
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

## \*GREETING

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** **And also with you.**

## \*KYRIE

ELW pg. 156-157



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



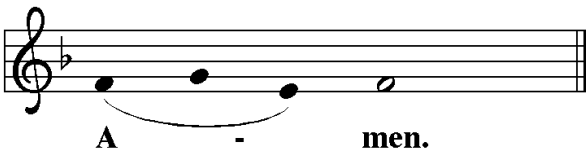
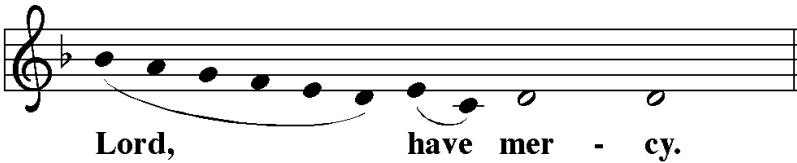
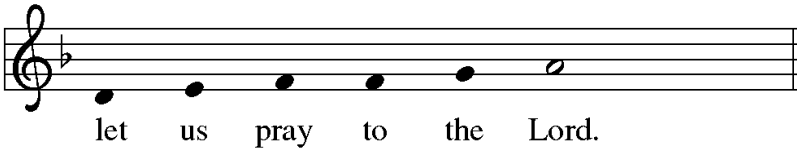
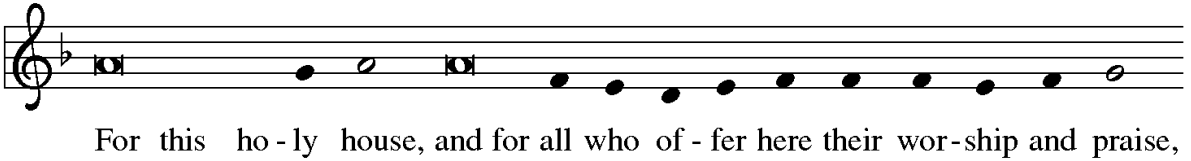
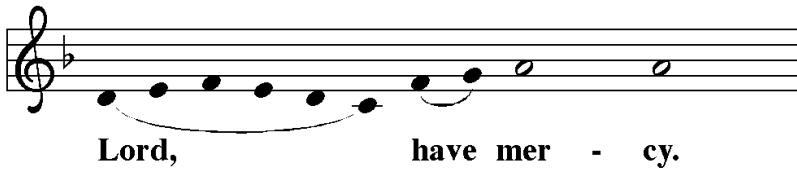
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

Let us pray...

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**



## THE WORD

### FIRST READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

*Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.*

L The First Reading according to Isaiah 11:1-10

<sup>1</sup> A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. <sup>2</sup> The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. <sup>3</sup> His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, <sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. <sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins. <sup>6</sup> The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup> They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. <sup>10</sup> On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### THE PSALM

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

read responsively

A <sup>1</sup> Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;

C <sup>2</sup> **that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;**

<sup>3</sup> that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

<sup>4</sup> **Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

<sup>5</sup> May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.

<sup>6</sup> **Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.**

<sup>7</sup> In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

**<sup>18</sup> Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel; you alone do wondrous deeds!**

<sup>19</sup> And blessed be your glorious name forever, and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

**A** Holy wisdom, Holy word.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## SECOND READING

Romans 15:4-13

*God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.*

**L** The First Reading according to Romans 15:4-13

<sup>4</sup> Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup> May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup> For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors <sup>9</sup> and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles and sing praises to your name"; <sup>10</sup> and again he says, "Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people"; <sup>11</sup> and again, "Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; <sup>12</sup> and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles; in him the gentiles shall hope." <sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit..

The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – verse 1

"We Are Waiting for Jesus"



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

## \*GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12

*Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.*

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 3:1-12

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

P <sup>1</sup>In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup>“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

<sup>3</sup>This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’ ”

<sup>4</sup>Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>7</sup>But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup>Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, <sup>9</sup>and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>11</sup>“I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Verse 2

"We Are Waiting for Jesus"

2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

Lov-ing Shep-herd, walk be-side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.

We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

The image shows four staves of music in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace." The second staff continues the melody with the same lyrics: "We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace." The third staff has a different melody and lyrics: "Lov-ing Shep-herd, walk be-side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us." The fourth staff returns to the first melody with the lyrics: "We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace." The music is written in a simple, accessible style suitable for children's choirs.

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Jason Northridge

***Following the Children's Sermon, Children and Children's Choir leaders are dismissed to Children's Choir rehearsal and will return for the Offertory Anthem.***

## SERMON

Pastor Jason Northridge

## \*HYMN OF THE DAY "Comfort, Comfort Now my People"

ELW 256

1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.  
2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,  
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.

The image shows the musical notation for the hymn "Comfort, Comfort Now my People". It features a treble and bass clef, a key signature of one flat (Bb), and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are written below the notes. The music is written in a simple, accessible style suitable for children's choirs.

Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.  
 call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.  
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be-fits God's ho - ly reign.

To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!  
 Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.  
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,

Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.  
 Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.  
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

### \*NICENE CREED

A Let us affirm our faith through the words of the Nicene Creed.

C **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### **\*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**A** In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

*A brief silence.*

With wisdom and understanding, inspire the faithful around the world. Unite hearts and minds in work to address poverty, access to housing, and equity among peoples. God of grace,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

With counsel and might, move us to care for creation. As we dream of the day when all creatures will flourish alongside one another, guide us in ways humanity and all creation will mutually thrive. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

With righteousness and faithfulness, encourage nations to live in harmony with one another. We pray for international student and teacher exchanges, for our partner churches, and for the shared mission of Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

With steadfastness and encouragement, strengthen those who have lost hope in the face of grief, depression, or disease. Renew the spirits of those recovering from surgery and medical procedures. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

With welcome and hospitality, embolden us in our shared ministry to overcome all that divides. In acts of repentance, reconciliation, and reparation, may we serve in the way of Christ. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

With joy and peace, we remember our ancestors in the faith. Fill us with the hope of the Holy Spirit now and into the ages of ages. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

**Amen.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

**P:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C:** **And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace,  
and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.  
The assembly is seated.*

## THE MEAL

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM "Creation Will Be At Peace"

Page/Williams

Adult Choir

"Creation Will Be At Peace" words and music by Anna Laura Page and J. Paul Williams

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*There are a number of ways of making your offerings to God during this time. One is to place your offering in our offering plates in front of the pews or to give online at <https://stpaulsyorkst.org/give>. If you prefer not to give online, you may of course mail a check to St. Paul's. If you are not able to give monetarily during this time, know that your prayers and praise are a pleasing offering to God. If you are able to give a little more during this time, please consider doing so as a way of supporting your fellow disciples who are not able to.*

### \*OFFERING RESPONSE

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

ELW 294, 3<sup>rd</sup> verse only

3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?

The image shows a musical score for a three-part setting of the hymn 'In the Bleak Midwinter'. It features a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a bass clef staff. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the accompaniment is in the bass staff. The lyrics are: '3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?'. The music is in 4/4 time and consists of 12 measures.

If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

### \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray.

Nourishing God,

**C you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. Amen.**

### \*DIALOGUE

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.\**



## \*PREFACE

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## \*SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## \*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.  
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.  
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.  
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

**Amen!**

### **\*LORD'S PRAYER**

**P** Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us...

**C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.  
Amen.**

## \*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

*All are welcome to commune. If you wish to receive communion from your seat, please let an usher know. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are also available.*

## AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.



DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN "He Comes, Emmanuel" Tune "Awesome God"

1. He comes, Emmanuel.  
Look up to heav'n above  
He rides on clouds of love.  
He comes, Emmanuel.

2. He comes, Emmanuel.  
His arm will set us free  
For life redeemed to be.  
He comes, Emmanuel.


3. He comes, Emmanuel.  
And brings his healing care  
To broken everywhere.  
He comes, Emmanuel.
4. He comes, Emmanuel  
Prepare your hearts to know  
His grace that faith may grow.  
He comes, Emmanuel.

5. He comes, Emmanuel.  
He's born as child and king.  
God with us, love to bring.  
He comes, Emmanuel.


6. He comes, Emmanuel.  
Lift up your voice and sing  
To hail the heav'nly king.  
He comes, Emmanuel.  
He comes, Emmanuel.

\*\*\*\*\*

COMMUNION HYMN "Messiah" from Dakota Road



Someone's shouting from the des- ert.      Someone's shouting from the sea.  
Someone's shouting from the cit - y.      I am young,— I am cold.  
Someone's shouting I am brok - en.      Someone's shouting make me whole.



Someone's shouting from the mountain.      Someone's shouting from the val- ley.      Mes-  
Someone's shouting from the country.      I am lone- ly, I am old.  
Someone's shouting come and change me.      Someone's shouting save my soul.

si ah, come and be our King.

Mes - si ah, come and be our

King.

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15

### \*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C** Amen.

### \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**A** Let us pray...  
God our host,  
at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

**C** Amen.

## \*BLESSING

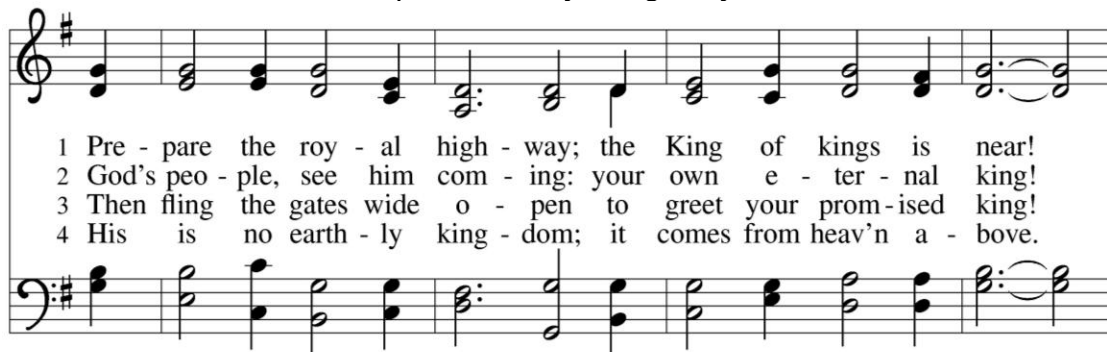
P May God who comes among us, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.

C Amen.

## \*SENDING HYMN

*"Prepare the Royal Highway"*

ELW 264



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!  
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!  
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!  
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
Palm branch-es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



## \*DISMISSAL

**A** Go in peace. Keep awake.

**C** **We are called through Christ to praise God and love generously. Thanks be to God.**

\* Stand if you are able

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	<u><b>December 7</b></u>	<u><b>December 14</b></u>
<b>Saturday night Worship</b>	Pastor Jason Northridge (12-6)	Linda Zellers (12/13)
<b>Assisting Minister:</b>	Donna Lehman	Bill Sowers
<b>Acolyte:</b>	Matthew Kaltreider	Leah Kaltreider
<b>Advent Candle Lighters</b>	Saylor Lovelace and family	Wren Eyler and family
<b>Cantor</b>	Gretchen Walter	Diana Leppo
<b>Lay Reader:</b>	Marlane Fissel	Christopher Johnson
<b>Communion Distributors</b>	Janet Haack	Glenn Alwine
	Suzanne Butler	Gretchen Walter
<b>Ushers:</b>	Michael Kelly	Michael Kelly
	Sharon Kelly	Sharon Kelly
<b>Altar:</b>	Linda Knapp	Linda Knapp
	Sally Lovelace	Sally Lovelace

**THE RADIO BROADCAST and THE WORSHIP BULLELTINS** are sponsored to the glory of God and in honor of Misty McClain's birthday on December 5th by Mom and Dad.

**ONE VASE OF ALTAR FLOWERS** is sponsored to the glory of God and in honor of Ali Yonkovitch's 40th birthday by her parents Brian and Cindy Selby.

**THE YELLOW ROSEBUD** is sponsored to the glory of God and in honor of Hazel Lehigh's birthday on December 13<sup>th</sup> by Pete Lehigh.

**ONE VASE OF ALTAR FLOWERS, THE COMMUNION BREAD AND WINE and THE ETERNAL FLAME** are sponsored to the glory of God and in honor of our new Pastor and his family from the call committee.

**PASTOR JASON WILL CONTINUE MID-WEEK DEVOTIONS ON WEDNESDAY** from 12:15 – 12:35 pm. All are welcome to join us in the church lounge.

**ADVENT DEVOTIONALS AND CALENDARS ARE STILL AVAILABLE!** What a great thing to have had to completely replenish the devotionals and calendars from last week's collection! Our Christian Education committee is offering these to all. The weekly devotional, "Starry Night" is appropriate for all ages and the daily devotional published by Luther Seminary is appropriate for adults. There are also Advent calendars to help you celebrate as well. Items are available on the counter outside of the sanctuary. Take one (or more) for a friend!

**GROCERY MINISTRY UPDATE - THANK YOU** to all who have generously supported our Grocery Ministry crisis appeal! You donated over 500 cans of food as well as nearly \$500! Please join us.

- Wed., December 10<sup>th</sup> at 10 am to unload a large York County Food Bank delivery!
- Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm to pack bags
- Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 9 am to pack and distribute

**SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE: Please contact Carmen Buckley in the church office or at [assistant@stpaulsyorkst.org](mailto:assistant@stpaulsyorkst.org)**

Radio—Dec. 14, 21 & 28 (\$60 per date or any portion you desire per date)

Altar Flowers- Dec. 14 (1 vase at \$20 each)

Communion Bread and Wine- Dec. 21 & 28 (\$12 each date)

Worship Bulletins- Dec. 14, 21 & 28 (\$20 each date)

Eternal Flame- Dec. 21 (\$10 each date)

**CONFIRMATION CLASS** meets next week. Join Deb and Bill in the sanctuary following worship to sit together during the Annual Meeting. We'll discuss proceedings as appropriate as we pay attention to the "business" workings of our congregation. Lunch will be provided by the Klunk family. Don't forget our homework was to make a "belief statement" (since we're discussing our church's creeds).

**DECEMBER'S DESIGNATED GIVING** will go to the Hanover Area Council of Churches' Changing Lives Shelter.

**There will be NO FAITH FORMATION CLASSES on Dec. 14** so that all can attend the Annual Meeting. Confirmation class will sit together during the meeting and meet as usual following the meeting.



**CARDS TO HOMEBOUND** - A sign-up sheet can be found on the bulletin board by Pastor's Office. There you will see a list of those of our members that are homebound with their birthdates and addresses. Please pick at least one member and make a commitment to seeing that the person gets a birthday card and a card for major holidays in 2026. This is an easy way for us to share Christ's love and concern for those of our members that are no longer able to attend church. We would like to have everyone covered by January 1, 2026. Thanks for helping with this project.

**JOIN US ON DEC. 28** following worship in Fellowship Hall for a Faith Formation event including a nativity pageant led by our younger members. ALL will be able to participate in telling the story by joining in with the singing of Christmas hymns. We'll end our time together with a small "Happy Birthday, Jesus!" celebration.

**WE CONTINUE TO LOOK FOR A PERSON (OR TWO!)** to join our team of leaders for the 7-12th grade Faith Formation group. Currently the group meets 3 weeks out of the month (not on Sundays that the Confirmation group meets). Volunteers would serve as a mentor for the youth and use the "Faith Lens" article published weekly by the ELCA as a discussion guide for the class. No experience is necessary but for a desire to talk and share your faith with our youth. All that is needed is PA Clearances (we can help you get them!). You would serve as your schedule allows! See Deb Sowers or contact the church office to volunteer.

**THE CHRISTIAN ED. COMMITTEE** is beginning to put together our schedule for Faith Formation leaders from Advent till March. Each week we are in need of a leader for the preK, K-6, and 7-12 groups. You can choose your activity from a menu of resources we make available to you. Please consider sharing your faith by volunteering for a Sunday! See Deb Sowers or contact the church office to volunteer.

### **ST. PAUL'S ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING AGENDA** **Sunday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> immediately following the 9:30 am Worship Service**

- approve the proposed budget for 2026 (see the next 2 pages)
- to review the 2025 Annual Report (copies mailed and are available in the hallway)
- approval of updates to St. Paul's constitution to the congregation. (copies mailed and are available in the hallway)
- Election of Council members (to be announced)
- Council moved to the congregation at the Annual Meeting the motion to sell the St. Paul's parking lot located between the gray house and Levity Spa (formerly Poist Studios). St. Paul's has an offer of \$28,000 for the lot.

<b>SUN., DEC. 7</b>	8:30 am	Radio Broadcast – 95.3 FM & 1280 AM
	9:30 am	Worship Service – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent
		<b>Welcome Pastor Jason</b>
Immediately following Worship		Coffee Hour – lounge
		Faith Formation – Children - 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
		Daily Discipleship class – nursery across from lounge
		Adult Choir II rehearsal
	3:00 pm	Private Use – Fellowship Hall
<b>MON., DEC. 8</b>	6:30 pm	Girl Scout groups – 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
<b>TUES., DEC. 9</b>	10:00 am	Advent Bible Study – Conference Room-2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
	10:30 am	L.I.U. Class – Youth Room
<b>WED., DEC. 10</b>	12:15 pm	Midweek Devotions – Lounge
	5:00 pm	Property Committee
	6:00 pm	All Committee Night
<b>THUR., DEC. 11</b>	6:00 pm	Bellchoir rehearsal – Balcony of the Sanctuary
	6:30 pm	Cub Scouts – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor
	7:00 pm	Boy Scout Troop 102 - Youth Room & Gym
	7:00 pm	Adult Choir rehearsal – Choir Loft in Sanctuary
<b>FRI., DEC. 12</b>	3:00 pm	Grocery Ministry prep – Gym
<b>SAT., DEC. 13</b>	9:00 am	Grocery Ministry – Boy Scout Troop 102
	5:00 pm	Saturday Evening Service
	6:15 pm	Narcotics Anonymous – Fellowship Hall
<b>SUN., DEC. 14</b>	8:30 am	Radio Broadcast – 95.3 FM & 1280 AM
	9:30 am	Worship Service – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent
<b>Immediately following Worship</b>		<b>Congregation Meeting (see agenda on pg. 25)</b>
Immediately following meeting		Confirmation Class – Youth Room
		Adult Choir II rehearsal
	11:00 am	Private Use – Fellowship Hall